

29. The isolated polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide is according to (b).
30. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of Claim 29 or the full complement to the isolated polynucleotide.
31. The isolated polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the immunogenic fragment of (b) comprises at least 20 amino acids.
32. The isolated polypeptide of Claim 25 wherein the isolated polypeptide of (a) consists of one of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16.
33. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of Claim 32 or the full complement to the isolated polynucleotide.
34. A process for expressing the polynucleotide of Claim 33 comprising transforming a host cell with an expression vector comprising the polynucleotide and culturing the host cell under conditions sufficient for expression of the polynucleotide.
35. A fusion protein comprising the isolated polypeptide of Claim 25.
36. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of one of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15.
37. An isolated polynucleotide segment comprising a polynucleotide sequence or the full complement of the entire length of the polynucleotide sequence, wherein the polynucleotide sequence hybridizes to the full complement of one of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15 minus the complement of any stop codon, wherein the hybridization conditions include incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising: 50% formamide, 5x SSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 micrograms/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA, followed by washing in 0.1x SSC at 65°C; and, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is identical to one of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15 minus any terminal stop codon, except that, over the entire length corresponding to one of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15 minus any terminal stop

International Application No. PCT/EP00/00135  
Attorney Docket No.: BM45348

codon,  $n_n$  nucleotides are substituted, inserted or deleted, wherein  $n_n$  satisfies the following expression

$$n_n \leq x_n - (x_n \cdot y)$$

wherein  $x_n$  is the total number of nucleotides in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15 minus any terminal stop codon,  $y$  is at least 0.95, and wherein any non-integer product of  $x_n$  and  $y$  is rounded down to the nearest integer before subtracting the product from  $x_n$ ; and wherein the polynucleotide sequence detects *Neisseria meningitidis*.

- AI
38. An expression vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 26.
  39. A host cell transformed with the expression vector of Claim 38.
  40. A vaccine comprising the polypeptide of Claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
  41. The vaccine of Claim 40, wherein the vaccine comprises at least one other *Neisseria meningitidis* antigen.
  42. An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide or immunogenic fragment of Claim 25.
  43. A method for inducing an immune response in a mammal comprising administration of the polypeptide of Claim 25.
  44. A method of diagnosing a *Neisseria meningitidis* infection, comprising identifying a polypeptide of Claim 25, or an antibody that is immunospecific for the polypeptide, present within a biological sample from an animal suspected of having such an infection.
  45. A method for inducing an immune response in a mammal comprising administration of the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 26.